

SA213281

**Portrait of Emily St. Clare 1803,
by James Northcote R.A.**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA213281

Date of manufacture: 1800

Description

Oil on canvas in a good giltwood period frame. Signed and dated 1803. Emily St Clare was the mistress of Sir John Leicester (1762-1827), later 1st Lord de Tabley of Tabley Hall, Cheshire (see Image 9). From about 1800 Leicester commissioned fancy pictures of his mistress, Emily St Clare; he was obsessed with her and commissioned at least fourteen portraits of her by John Hoppner, William Owen, Henry Thomson and John Northcote during the first decade of the 19th century. A major patron of British Art, Leicester also commissioned paintings by Turner, Sir Thomas Lawrence and James Ward. After Leicester's marriage on 9 November 1810, to a grand-daughter of the architect Sir William Chambers, Georgiana Maria Cottin (1794-1859), he hid the portraits of his mistress from his wife and pensioned Emily off with an allowance of £700 p.a. He died in 1827 and shortly afterwards they were sold as subject paintings. Northcote painted Miss St Clare no less than seven times, portraying her twice with a falcon. In the earlier canvas she is seated with the bird in profile on her hand, a head and shoulders canvas for which Leicester paid £21.10s in 1801 (see J. Simon, Walpole Society, p...

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